

September 16, 1985

TO: File ACT/045/019

FROM: Richard V. Smith, Geologist *RVS*
Everett Hooper, Reclamation Soils Specialist

RE: Field Inspection September 6, 1985

Gold Hill mill

The site consists of an old mill, a heap leach pad and several leachate ponds. PVC pipe drains the heap leach pad into the ponds. The ponds are not lined and appeared to be haphazardly constructed. Plastic lining and a concrete skirt were observed along the top of the heap leach pad. Apparently, the top of the leach pad was not level because it appears to have drained along the western margin (see photographs) of the pad.

Several 55 gallon drums were observed to be scattered around the site; including empty containers of sodium cyanide and partially full containers of flake sodium sulfide.

Sediment and drainage controls were not identified and the site appears to have been inactive during this spring and summer. Seventeen photographs were taken of the site.

A hydrologist should review the photographs to determine whether a field hydrologic inspection is required.

btb
cc: John Whitehead
9206R-33

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Also located on-site, were two mobile trailers, a storage shed, a large diesel generator and assorted pieces of processing equipment and hardware. It did not appear that the leaching facilities had been used very recently; however, there were recent signs of vehicular access to the site. There is another open decline adjacent to the leaching facility which can be easily entered. No water was noted from observations at the entrance.

A series of recent disturbances and excavations in an adjacent drainage were also noted. Cumulatively, these disturbances were estimated to be at least two acres in size.

Approximately 300 yards updrainage from the leach pad facility is an abandoned building which contains a large number of 1 1/2 diameter inch boxed core samples. It seemed highly questionable to the staff whether this site would qualify under a Declaration of Exemption (DOE) status and decided that the company should be contacted as soon as possible for more information and clarification of this unpermitted activity.

btt
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